

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 04658 142104Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----107410 142107Z /62
O 142023Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6767

S E C R E T BONN 04658

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO LONDON, PARIS, USNATO
AND GENEVA (USSALTTWO)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM NATO SALT GW
SUBJECT: FRG POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION

REFS: (A) BONN 4464; (B) STATE 61784; (C) STATE 42975

1. STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL INFORMED THE CHARGE THIS EVENING (MARCH 14) THAT THE FRG WAS NOW PREPARED TO ACQUIESCE IN THE TABLING OF THE US FALLBACK POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION WHENEVER THE US REGARDED IT NECESSARY TO DO SO.

2. VAN WELL, WHO ASKED THE CHARGE TO COME TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO BE BRIEFED ON TODAY'S FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL (FSC) DISCUSSIONS OF ERW (SEPTELS) AND SALT, SAID THERE HAD BEEN A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION ISSUE AND THE PROPOSED INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT WHICH THE US WOULD GIVE TO THE NAC AND THE CONGRESS. WHILE IT WAS ASSUMED THERE WOULD BE DISCUSSIONS OF THE EXACT TEXT OF THE INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT, THE FRG WELCOMED THE US APPROACH AND FOUND THE GENERAL TENOR OF THE STATEMENT QUITE SATISFACTORY.

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3. VAN WELL STATED THAT THE FRG HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE US POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION. IT STILL CONSIDERED IT UNDESIRABLE TO STATE THAT WE REALLY INTEND TO FULFILL THE TREATY, AND THE GERMANS KNEW THE SOVIETS WOULD USE THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE AS A LEVER. THE FRG THUS STILL MAINTAINED ITS CONCERN.

NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE STATE OF CONSULTATIONS REACHED, THE FRG WOULD ACQUIESCE IN THE US PROCEEDING WITH THE FALLBACK.

4. VAN WELL SAID THE FSC HAD ALSO DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE GRAY AREAS QUESTION AND PROPOSED US UNILATERAL STATEMENT THAT "ANY FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON US SYSTEMS PRINCIPALLY DESIGNED FOR THEATER MISSIONS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE LIMITATIONS ON SOVIET THEATER SYSTEMS" (PARA 6.B, REF C). THE FRG PLANNED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE US AT THE WORKING LEVEL, IN ORDER TO SEEK A DEFINITION OF THE TERM "THEATER SYSTEMS." THE TERMS "FBS" AND "NON-CENTRAL SYSTEMS" WERE FAMILIAR, BUT "THEATER SYSTEMS" WAS NEW TO THE FSC.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN04658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N780003-0456
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780373/aaaacjop.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8cf8f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 BONN 4464, 78 STATE 61784, 78 STATE 42975
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3345917
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION
TAGS: PARM, GE, NATO
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8cf8f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014